

Remarks:

This Amendment and the accompanying Request for Continued Examination are responsive to the final Office action dated March 10, 2006.

Prior to entry of this Amendment, claims 1-10 and 29-34 were pending in the application. Claims 1-3, 6-8, 29-30 and 32-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) based on Voss et al. (US 4,322,449). Claims 9-10 and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Voss et al. Claims 4-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Voss et al. in view of Vogues (US 5,894,841). Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejections.

Nevertheless, in the interest of furthering prosecution of this application to issuance of a patent, applicants have amended claims 1 and 29 to make the recited "target dissolution rate" more clear. Claim 34 has been amended to make the "desired surface-to-mass ratio more clear. It is believed that the present amendments will result in a more accurate understanding of applicants' claims.

In rejecting applicants' claims, the Examiner has asserted that "controlling the dot pattern, the shape or size of the dot, or the consistency of the size of the dots will inherently provide control over the dissolution rate and also the surface-to-mass ratio." The Examiner has thus far **not** considered the selection of a second location for placement of a drop in relation to the first location for placement of a drop based on an identified target dissolution rate, or based on a desired surface-to-mass ratio. The Examiner indicates only that controlling parameters that affect dot pattern will inherently also affect dissolution rate and surface-to-mass ratio.

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By this amendment, applicants have amended claims 1 and 29 to recite "identifying a target dissolution rate," making it more clear that the desired dot topography is selected to correspond to the identified target dissolution rate. The recited selection of the second location thus is not one that is inherent in controlling particular parameters, but rather, is made based on an identified target dissolution rate so as to achieve the identified target dissolution rate. Similarly, claim 34 has been amended to recite "identifying a desired surface-to-mass ratio," making it more clear that the second location is selected to correspond to the desired surface-to-mass ratio.

Regarding the cited references, applicants note that neither Voss et al. nor Voges disclose selection of locations for placement of drops to achieve a particularly identified target dissolution rate, or surface-to-mass ratio. In fact, neither Voss et al. nor Voges disclose any identification of a target dissolution rate or surface-to-mass ratio. By the Examiner's own characterization, Voss discloses nothing more than forming dots on a delivery substrate in a desired geometric pattern. There is absolutely no discussion of dissolution rate or surface-to-mass ratio. Voges is cited only as teaching inkjet printing using piezoelectric ejection elements or thermal ejection elements.

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Conclusion

Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for allowance, in view of the above amendments and remarks. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowability covering the pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned attorney of record.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to Examiner J. Michener, Group Art Unit 1762, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, at facsimile number (571) 273-8300 on June 12, 2006.



Christie A. Doolittle

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